

## HS HCS SCS SB 296 -- EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

This bill requires that changes to the state school district accreditation standards take effect no less than two years after their adoption by rule, unless a specific time line is otherwise mandated.

The bill also changes the standards for teacher certification. Currently, teacher certificates include three levels, the first two of which are steps to a continuous professional certificate, renewable every 10 years. The bill replaces the three-level system with a two-level system: an initial four-year certificate and a career continuous professional certificate. The bill grants current certificate holders who qualify as of August 28, 2003, an equivalent certificate as their current certificates expire. The bill contains professional development requirements for both levels of certification, exempting certain continuous certificate holders. For the initial certificate, additional requirements include participation in a beginning teacher assistance program and two years of mentoring.

The bill also deletes references to the five-year provisional certification granted to experienced teachers with out-of-state certificates and grants a license to validly certified teachers from other states hired to teach in this state, commensurate with their experience, upon completion of a background check, if the certificate holder annually completes the requirements of the State Board of Education for that level of certification. Currently, holders of a doctor of philosophy degree may be granted a certificate under certain conditions. The bill changes this to a doctoral degree. A fee may be charged for initial certificates not to exceed the cost of their issuance plus the background check. Enticement of a child and attempting to entice a child are added to the list of crimes for which licenses are revoked. When a certificate holder pleads or is found guilty of an offense that would permit disciplinary action against the holder, the local school board or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must notify the state board and the Attorney General.